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THE  
LIFE AND OPINIONS  
OF  
Miss SUKEY SHANDY,  
OF  
BOW-STREET, Gentlewoman.  
IN A  
SERIES OF LETTERS  
To her DEAR BROTHER  
TRISTRAM SHANDY, Gent.

---

The Power of Beauty shall sooner change Honesty from what  
it is to a Bawd, than the Force of Honesty convert Beauty to  
its L. kenefs -----

This was sometime a Paradox, but now the Times give it Proof.  
SHAKESPEAR.

---

L O N D O N :  
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THE  
LIFE AND OPINIONS  
OF  
Miss SUKEY SHANDY,  
Of Bow-STREET, Gentlewoman.



LETTER I.

DEAR BROTHER,

AS a woman is to herself of as much importance as Alexander or Cæsar were formerly in their own eyes, you will not, I presume, be much surprised to see me follow your example, and turn my own biographer. Add to this, that it is a

B

proof

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proof of affection I owe so good a brother, to communicate to him the most secret events of my life, a life as diversified, tho' not so uncommon as your own. You have justly observed in your first chapter, that it is of the utmost consequence that parents in procreating should consider what they are about ; and here I am entirely of your opinion : thinking too lightly of so weighty an affair has been productive of much evil in the world ; not to mention Hecuba's dream of being pregnant with a firebrand, which was afterwards sadly verified in the burning of Troy, though Paris had, in his infancy, been exposed on Mount Ida, and the more shocking catastrophe of Œdipus and his family, none of whom ever came to good, which is not, indeed, much to be wondered at, since the son had the misfortune of getting his mother with child.

Not

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Not to mention these well-known stories, every day affords us melancholy examples of the fatal consequences of neglecting to take proper care at the juncture in question; and the great numbers that die at Tyburn, amount to a compleat demonstration, that copulation is often huddled in a strange manner, and without taking fit measures upon the occasion. But to proceed with my story.

I shall begin, dear brother, by letting you into a secret concerning my birth, which will at the same time enable you to form a more just estimate of your own, than you can at present. Not to keep you any longer in suspense, we are sister and brother by the mother's side only: our births, however, differ in one circumstance; you were begot in the night, whereas I was begot between the

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hours of three and four in the afternoon : I am positive I was—and my father, who you must know was a Scotch parson, who passed through the county of ———, I won't be positive in what year of our Lord, attacked my mother by her weak side, which was a turn to enthusiasm, and succeeded so well that I was the fruit of their intercourse. It is unnecessary to inform you, that this happened while my reputed father, the natural philosopher, from whom you have the honour of being descended, was absent upon some business which detained him about a month; however, it afterwards appeared from my well-turn'd limbs, and blooming complexion, that the Scot was as well skilled in one branch of the physical science, as any natural philosopher of them all; and I really believe I, in that respect, have reason to congratulate my illegitimacy. However,

as

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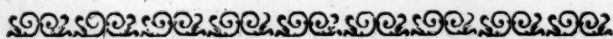
as I observed above, my father and mother could not certainly have taken all necessary precautions at my birth; and this, indeed, seems somewhat excusable, considering how they were circumstanced at the time. They intended, no doubt, to have given birth to a vestal; but from not observing a due regimen for some time before the vigorous embrace, I proved of a most amorous complexion, and love had a considerable share in all that afterwards befel me. This, indeed, might have partly been owing to Mars and Venus being in conjunction at my birth; for let me tell you, brother, the stars have great influence over the fates of women especially; and it surprises me, that so profound a philosopher as Tristram Shandy, should not have taken notice of the vast importance of the position of the constellations at the geniture of frail mortals.

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You shall shortly hear farther from me.  
In the mean time I subscribe myself,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



L E T T E R    I I.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** MAKE no doubt that one of your philosophical turn of mind, can receive no sort of concern from the anecdote which I imparted to you in my last; you cannot but be sensible, that many of the nobility and gentry have that circumstance of their birth in common with you; and a son is nevertheless his lordship, or the right honourable — esq; because his father was a cuckold. But to  
proceed



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proceed with the history of my life : I shall not be very particular with regard to the circumstances of my infancy, or my childhood ; for you know there is nothing very interesting in those stages of a woman's life, though man is of such high importance, that a judicious historian should give an exact account of what passes even whilst he is in his mother's womb. I shall begin the history of my adventures, by relating what befel me when I was about fourteen years of age.

You cannot be ignorant, dear brother, that at this period, and sometimes before it, both male and female begin to take after their first parents, and feel a longing for the forbidden fruit. For my part I had so much of the blood of my great grandmother Eve in my veins, that I began to feel a longing, not for an apple but for



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something else, that is much more apt to make a girl's mouth water. Here it is proper I should explain myself, lest you should put a worse interpretation on my words than their obvious meaning carries with them. There was at that time a young footman in our house, I don't know whether you remember him ; but as it is possible you may not have an exact idea of his person, as you certainly did not see him with my eyes, I shall here give a description of him. He was much about my age, or not much older, not quite fifteen ; he was rather tall of his age, and perfectly well shaped ; his hair, which was light, inclined a little to the sandy, but exactly became his complexion, which, tho' fair, had contracted something of a sandy hue from much walking in the sun. There was a liveliness in his eyes which inclined to the dark,

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dark, and this gave a most pleasing expression to his whole countenance, and seemed to constitute his whole beauty; for the eye is of so great importance to beauty, that poets have, time out of mind, made it the repository of flames, loves, darts, and what not. Nay, our great epic poet has placed heaven in the eye of Eve, tho' it is well known she afterwards sold all her posterity to the devil. I could here make a very prolix digression, in your manner, upon the various operations of the eye, and its power in exciting the amorous passion; but I chuse to defer it for the present, and return to my story.

Young as I was I could never behold this youth with outfeeling a sensible pleasure; my eyes brightened with joy whenever he passed by me, and his sympathising

thifing with mine, feemed often to roll and fwim in their orbs with pleasure. I declined making a digreffion a while ago, but now I can't refift the temptation of making one. We women are fickle, and may furely claim a privilege of rambling from our fubject; and then fympathy is a favourite fubject of mine. When two lovers fix their eyes on each other, they muft undoubtedly receive mutually a fubtile matter from this meeting of their vifual rays, which, thrilling through the nerves, pervades the whole nervous fyftem, and often produces fenfations more exquisite than are felt in the very act of enjoyment. This, whether the general hypothefis be true or falfe, I experienced whenever I faw the young Celadon, who made the firft impreffion upon my youthful heart; and thefe fenfations were by no means ftrongeft in the optic nerves. You  
muft,

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must, no doubt, take it for granted, that this intelligence of our eyes was productive of something more, and you will find it was from the sequel. Though we were both equally smitten with each other, we did not at first well know what we wished for. Though we had frequent opportunities of being together for a short time, our interviews at first did not produce any thing more than kind looks, which were always reciprocal; short sighs, and amorous murmurings, which, tho' perfectly felt, were not always understood. In fine, my case strongly resembled that of Sylvia, as described in a ballad of Mr. Dryden's:

“ Sylvia the fair, in the bloom of fifteen,  
Felt an innocent warmth as she lay on the green,  
She had heard of it often, but was still at a loss,  
What they meant by their sighing and kissing so  
close;

By their toying and whining, and clasping, and  
twining,

And sighing, and kissing so close.”

My

My being such a novice as not to know the nature of my case, must plead my excuse for seeking all opportunities of an interview with the young footman, who had captivated my heart ; and such was my success, that before a month was expired my state of uncertainty was at an end. In the garden belonging to our house, there was a sort of summer-house, in which my father and mother sometimes drank tea: one evening that my father and mother were absent upon a visit to one of the neighbours, and no one left at home but the maid-servants and myself, my young spark was sent home by my mother to look for something that she had forgot in the aforesaid summer-house ; when he arrived I happened to be there, and was at that time employed in reading an amorous description of an interview between two lovers in an arbour in the romance  
of

of Clelia. When Christopher, for that was his name, opened the door, his eyes sparkled with joy; however, he asked my pardon for having come upon me by surprise, and declaring the nature of his commission, seemed going to proceed to the discharge of it, when, perceiving like symptoms of pleasure in my countenance, he approached me, and observing that it was a fine evening, and that it must be very pleasant to enjoy the refreshing breeze in such a place, I took the hint and desired him to sit down a few moments, which he did, after having taken the precaution of shutting the door. I never saw him look so handsome before; his eyes beamed a brightness and serenity which a painter would find it difficult to express upon canvass, and his complexion appearing of a clearness not to be matched, was bedewed with a sort of moisture, which,



which, on these occasions, indicates the internal colliquation of joys felt by the soul. How I appeared to him I can describe also, as I sometimes cast my eye on a looking-glass which was placed opposite to us; my hair, which was very long and as black as jet, was tied behind and hung almost half down my back, and my eyes, which were of the same colour and very lively, were fixed upon his, seemed quite dissolved in blifs, and overflowed with joy, rolling in a moist fluid whenever they met those of my lover. To describe every circumstance of this interview would be tedious; for which reason I shall only acquaint you with the result of it. After Christopher, had greatly exceeded the time allotted for the discharge of his commission, he quitted me with great reluctance; and you may well imagine, that I was equally unwilling to part with him :



him : we resolved, however, to have frequent assignations at this place. The consequence of our meeting upon this occasion was, that I was, from that time, without what lady Withfort says, raises women up to angels when preserved, and when lost debases them below the lowest brutes, below men : but I must own, that my principles were always such, that I neither then could, nor can I now think, virginity a thing of so much importance ; nor could I ever conceive how the loss of it should be destructive, if not preceded by a ceremony, and sanctified by a few words muttered by a man in black. This may perhaps be looked upon as professing libertinism ; but for my part I always loved to speak my mind, and am of as noble and independent a spirit as Calista herself. I was always charmed with the following sentiments in her character :

“ How

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“How hard is the condition of our sex !  
Thro’ every scene, the slaves of lordly man :  
In all the dear delightful days of youth,  
A rigid father dictates to our will,  
And deals our pleasures with a sparing hand,  
To his the lordly husband’s sway succeeds.”

FAIR PENITENT.

I was so much of this way of thinking,  
that tho’ nature forced a father upon me,  
I was resolved my liberty should never be  
abridged by the authority of a husband ;  
and yet, thro’ the whole course of my  
life, I have enjoyed all the pleasures of  
the marriage-state, without ever suffering  
by any of the various inconveniencies to  
which it is liable : which makes me en-  
tirely of the opinion of Lotharid ; that

“As for those other names of wife and husband,  
They only mean ill-nature, care and broils.”

Thus

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Thus you see, brother, that my opinions are pretty free, and in this respect we are brother and sister; for it is allowed by all the world that your morals hang a little loose about you. In my next you shall hear the conclusion of my first intrigue. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



### L E T T E R   I I I .

DEAR BROTHER,

**Y**OU see I am entirely without reserve; I declare my opinions with the same freedom you inform the world of yours, and I no more make a secret of my practice than of my opinions. I always

C

ways looked upon what passes upon the world for modesty as altogether unworthy of a woman of spirit, and shall therefore continue to give an account of my first love-affair with the same openness that I did in my last. One accident or other prevented my young lover and I from having a second interview as soon as we could have wished; and I languished in impatient expectation of a renewal of those ecstasies which I had already experienced. At last, however, the wished-for moment came: my father and mother, who suspected nothing of the matter, one evening sent Christopher to call me down to supper; when he came up to my apartment, he was so bold as to enter it without ceremony, and I, for my part, was not displeased with his want of respect. My heart leaped with joy when I beheld him; and I was not displeased that  
my

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my chamber should be the scene of our second amorous intercourse. We could not, however, stay as long as we willingly would have done ; but I now found, for the first time, that a few moments with love is better than whole ages without it. Brother, you may perhaps think me paradoxical, when I assure you that the whole happiness of a woman's life may be reduced to a few moments ; but you are fond of paradoxes yourself, and will therefore the more easily credit my assertion.

My commerce with the young lacquey continued for near two years ; and yet such was my success, that my amour was never discovered by my parents, nor did the impertinent intrusion of a third person into the world give intelligence of what had passed between us. I always

looked upon it as one of the most cruel hardships to which our sex is exposed, that they cannot taste the sweets of love without running the risque of giving birth to a witness against themselves ; and I have always considered it as a peculiar happiness, that my love-intrigues were never attended with the disagreeable incumbrance of children. Those dull creatures called virtuous wives may take what pleasure they will in caressing their children ; but for my part, I had rather at any time a slight disorder should be the consequence of a love-affair of mine, than see myself reduced to the sad necessity of being a mother. Lord, brother, what an odious appellation that of mother is ! one cannot help thinking one's self old when one is a mother. But to return from this digression.

I must



I must now tell you how my affair with the young spark abovementioned ended : he constantly vowed eternal love ; for, tho' a footman, he could make vows of fidelity like any nobleman, and the sequel will shew that he was not more scrupulous in keeping them. About this time a servant-maid was hired by my mother, who, tho' but a country girl, was in beauty superior to many ladies of quality. In her person she was lusty, and her shape, tho' not elegant, was not defective. Her skin was very fine, and it is remarkable that her hands, notwithstanding the work she was sometimes employed in, were extremely white : her hair was black, and her eyebrows finely arched, and pretty thick : her complexion, however, was very fair, and contained an equal mixture of the lilly and the rose : her eyes rather dark, and her features, in general, agree-



able, tho' rather large than the contrary. Add to all this a beauty, which with many of the other sex would have more weight than any of those I have described ; I mean a bosom, whose heaving globes equalled the driven snow in whiteness. Susan, for that was her name, soon insinuated herself greatly into my favour ; and as I was not naturally of a jealous temper, I was not much alarmed when I perceived my young paramour behave to her with a shew of tendernefs which would have made one of more discernment call his fidelity in question : however, he soon grew so particular, and seemed to bestow so much more of his attention on Susan than on me, that I could not help expostulating with him, and upbraiding him with inconstancy. The young rogue, with an intrepidity of assurance which would have become his betters, affirmed  
with

with many oaths that my suspicions were groundless; and at last had recourse to an argument which gave me some satisfaction for the present, tho' my scruples still remained. My doubts, however, were soon after converted into certainty.

One day as I passed by Susan's chamber, I heard her speaking low to somebody, which excited my curiosity, and made me listen with attention. I soon distinguished the voice of my faithless swain, who expressed himself to this effect. "Dear Mrs. Susan, can you imagine me so void of judgment, as to prefer a silly girl to the full-blown charms of so fine a woman as you are?" Hearing something more to the same purpose, I was tempted to join the sense of seeing to the sense of hearing, and confirm one by the other. I accordingly applied my

eye to a crevice, which seemed to have been made in the partition on purpose to facilitate my beholding what I did not desire to see. Here, no doubt, you will ask me what I saw—why to deal plainly with you, brother, I saw something that the laws of decency forbid me to describe, however willing I may be to dwell upon scenes of a certain nature. It seems somewhat odd, that custom should have laid so extraordinary a restraint upon women as to forbid them to speak in plain terms of what is the ultimate object of their desires. This custom, like most other customs, introduced by ceremony and punctilio, I always looked upon as very absurd and impertinent; and yet, such is the tyranny of prescription, that I must conform to it. I always highly approved of the laudable innovations made in this respect by certain ladies of quality,

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quality, who, not many years ago, so far threw off these disagreeable constraints, as to use, familiarly, terms and expressions which formalists proscribe as obscene. Indeed, the ladies of the present age have improved upon the hint, by the happy thought of toasting young fellows. A scene of this kind I have been present at; for you must know I have been in high life, and kept company with ladies of the first quality. Is not this a charming dialogue, brother, and must it not have passed amongst women of great spirit? I wait for your ladyship's toast:---Colonel Atall, he's a fine young fellow, and has the best leg of any man in England. Your toast, lady ---:--Sir William Morelove; lord, he's an angel of a man, and then he has such fine black hair; he looked ravishing t'other day in the park in a suit of green and gold; it became him hugely, ladies; if you had seen him you'd all have

have been as much in love with him as I am myself.

Thus you see, brother, that ladies of quality understand refining upon pleasure as well as we who are peculiarly denominated women of pleasure. Don't blush at hearing your sister declare herself a woman of pleasure. Lord, brother, what would life be without pleasure? and when pleasure is in question, what woman would not purchase it even at the expence of a *whose?* worse name? I always loved sincerity; and I will freely own to you, that if all women are like myself, I must entirely agree with the poet,

“That ev'ry woman's in her heart a rake.”

Adieu, dear brother, my tea waits, so shall subscribe myself,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

LETTER IV.

DEAR BROTHER,

I Acquainted you in my last with the inconstancy of my faithless Strephon. Well, and how do you think I was affected by it? Surely it was a shocking thing for a girl of my sensibility to be unfortunate in her first love: well, you men are very devils; you exert your utmost art to take in poor weak girls; and when you have compassed your wicked ends, you go upon the look-out for another conquest. For my part, in my youthful days I founded you to the bottom, and so, instead of going into a corner, and crying, when I had made the discovery above-mentioned, I resolved not to trouble my head about it, but still to continue my former correspondence with Christopher, as if nothing had



had happened. Jealousy is the bane of love ; and I think it a great happiness that I was born with but a very small tincture of it. I soon met Christopher, and, instead of upbraiding him with inconstancy, told him that the fine weather was not over ; and that I intended to take a walk in the garden, and if he could contrive means to disengage himself for a few moments, we might enjoy the cool of the evening in the summer-house, as we often had done before. The young spark promised to meet me at six in the evening, and was faithful to his assignation ; from which it evidently appears that he was a general lover, and it is probable that I might have had many other rivals besides Susan. Our transports at meeting were as fierce as usual ; but after we had passed a short time in amorous converse, and toyed like lovers equally smitten with  
each



each other, the door burst open, and who should come in but Susan ! Whether a jealous surmise had made her watch our motions ; or whether chance had directed her steps thither, I cannot say ; but it is hard to tell whether her fury or vexation was greatest when she beheld us. She immediately flew out into reproaches against Christopher, and whilst she apostrophised him, you may depend upon it I was not spared. Christopher endeavoured to appease her, but all in vain ; the more he strove to calm her passion, the more outrageous she grew. She threatened to acquaint my father and mother with what had passed between us ; so that I was at last obliged to give her to understand that I knew as bad concerning herself ; which, when I had made appear by indelible tokens, her passion subsided a little, and Christopher, tho' he at first seemed a little surprised

surprised at being detected, at last joined with me, in representing that it was for our interest to keep each other's council. The arguments we used had so much force, that she acquiesced at length; and thus an accommodation was made, by which Christopher seemed to be in a situation something like that of Macheath, in the Beggars Opera, liable to be called upon by two wives, whenever inclination prompted either of them. His case was indeed worthy of compassion; for when a woman once thinks she has a claim to certain services, she is generally insatiable in her demands; what then must be the distress of that man who must satisfy two at a time?

This extraordinary accommodation being made, Christopher continued for some time to divide his assiduities between us;  
and

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and tho' our demands were very frequent, he acquitted himself but too well ; for in nine months Susan was brought to-bed of a child ; and my father and mother immediately suspecting Christopher to be the father, which they might well have done, had their penetration been less than it was, made so exact a scrutiny that they at last came at the truth. It is proper here to inform you, that Christopher and Susan had once been caught in a familiar posture by one of the maids, who was prevailed upon to keep their secret ; but being afterwards examined, when the above-mentioned accident happened, declared all she knew, and that was more than enough to convince my father and mother that Susan and Christopher were no better than they should be. Happily for me my reputation continued hitherto unblemished in their opinion. When they had made this

this discovery, it is natural to suppose that they were not disposed to keep such domestics any longer in their house, and accordingly both Susan and Christopher were immediately turned out of doors; and to my great regret it was not possible for me to have a parting interview with him. However, I took care not to die with grief for his loss, and consoled myself with the hopes of soon finding another as good as he. Such an occasion did not offer itself quite so soon as I could have wished. I languished three months without tasting the joys of love; and I was then so habituated to them, that I would much rather have shared a lover with a rival than have gone without one. Perhaps you may tell me that this contradicts a received maxim, That a woman would rather lose her lover at Tyburn than see him in the arms of another. But I was never a monopolizer

in love ; and it was always my opinion, that the pleasure we receive from a lover is neither greater nor less because other women receive pleasure from the same man. If you men had been always of the same way of thinking, how many murders, wars, prosecutions, and other fatal events might have been avoided. But you can never bring yourself to Sophia's rational way of thinking, that let a woman give ever so much to her lovers, she will always have enough left for her husband. The example of the French, especially of the Parisians, seems highly worthy of imitation in this respect ; and I could wish my countrymen, who seem so well-disposed to copy the French manners, would imitate them in this. At Paris a husband never minds how many gallants his wife has, and she is as little solicitous about the mistresses kept by

D

him.

him. Cuckoldom in that polite country is looked upon as the necessary concomitant of marriage, and no man despises a mother for what he knows he himself may be reproached with. It is indeed somewhat surprising, that so ancient and venerable an order as that of cuckolds, should be treated with such disrespect, and that horns should be the escutcheon of a society of which many monarchs have been members. Dear brother, I hope you'll pardon this apology for cuckoldom which I have made, chiefly because both you and I are descended from a father who has been initiated into the fraternity. It is natural for all people to vindicate the honour of their families, and the illustrious Shandy family seems to stand as much in need of a vindication as any family whatsoever. So much for the honour of our family. It is time now to resume the thread of my story.

It



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It was not long before I had a second intrigue; and tho' it has been asserted, that the first love is always the strongest, the maxim does not hold with respect to me. My second passion was as strong, and attended with as much pleasure as the first. Perhaps there are many women that could say as much; even ancient history affords many examples of this. Dido was inconsolable for Sicheus, but Æneas found means to console her in the cave;—a cave by the by is an excellent place to administer consolation to an afflicted widow. Farewel, brother, I have already exceeded the limits of a letter: in my next you shall hear an account of my second love-adventure.

Yours affectionately,

S. SHANDY.

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LET.

## L E T T E R   V.

DEAR BROTHER,

**Y**OU are doubtless impatient to hear the continuation of my amorous adventures ; so I shall not keep you long in suspense, but proceed directly with my narrative : first, premising, that a woman's first love is always the strongest, unless she should happen to have a second. Some months after the departure of Christopher and Susan, a young gentleman, who was a distant relation of my mother's, happened to pass thro' our county, and was by my father pressed to stay a few weeks at his house. That you may not call my taste in question, when you hear what passed between us afterwards, I shall previously give you a description of his person : I am vastly fond of descriptions,

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scriptions, they help to recal agreeable ideas, and throw the animal spirits into tracks, which they never pass thro' without delight. The young gentleman I have been speaking of was, in his person, tall, and slender, somewhat above the highest of the middle stature; his limbs admirably well turned, and of a symmetry and elegance almost inexpressible. His legs in particular, were so finely shaped, that no statuary could, with his utmost art, give a perfect idea of them. His face had but little colour in it, but his complexion, in which the lilly predominated over the rose, equalled that of any woman in delicacy. His hair, which was one of his greatest beauties, was as black as jet, and hung half way down his back. He wore it tied behind with a ribband, and its ringlets displayed a thousand nameless graces. His eyes were black,

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and rather languishing than sparkling; however, they shewed a tenderness and sensibility inexpressible. His hands were extremely fine, and of a whiteness not to be surpassed. To these personal charms add an ease and politeness in his behaviour, not often to be met with in a courtier; and something uncommonly sweet, and insinuating in his speech: and you will not be surprized, that susceptible as I was of the passion of love, I could not see him with indifference. Alas! so fine a young man could easily have triumphed over my virtue, and deprived me of my innocence; but at that juncture it was impossible for him to do so. I am aware that this exclamation gives you some surprize, and I think I see you ready to ask me why? Why, brother, not to detain you any longer, that was done before. But to return to my story.

Every

Every word and gesture of Mr. Frankly gave me the highest delight ; but when he addressed his conversation to me, I felt an inward transport which I cannot easily describe ; however, I had heart enough to conceal this from the prying eyes of my parents. I could not help thinking that there was something more than civility in Mr. Frankly's behaviour to me, tho' I could perceive that he, on his part, took some pains to prevent my father and mother from perceiving, that he saw me with the eyes of a lover. However, it soon after appeared that he did ; for one evening the son of a farmer, who lived in the neighbourhood, put a note into my hand, and, upon opening it, I was surprised to read what follows :

D 4

“MADAM,

“ MADAM,

I don't know whether the liberty I now take will offend you ; but I cannot resist the ardent desire which prompts me to declare a passion which you inspired me with at first sight ; for the very first glance of such eyes as yours, cannot fail of exciting love in any breast that is not altogether insensible. To languish in silence, and conceal my passion, is what I at first, in vain, attempted ; but life will be a burthen to me, till I know whether she, who has won my heart, is disposed to compassionate my pains and alleviate my sufferings.

Your adorer,

THO. FRANKLY.”

Judge whether I was pleased at the receipt of this letter ; I shall not attempt  
to



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to describe the ecstasies which it gave me. I immediately wrote an answer to it; and as I recollected that Eloisa has said, concerning letters, that they

“Excuse the blush, and pour out all the heart.”

I did not think it necessary to be too reserved in my billet-doux. It was conceived in the following terms :

“SIR,

That woman must be indeed insensible, that can see so fine a gentleman as yourself with indifference. I shall not vainly attempt to persuade you, that I beheld you without emotion : should I do so, a thousand expressions which I have let drop, and the language of my eyes more expressive than any eloquence, must convince you of the contrary. I could never approve of those constraints, which

a pretended decorum has laid upon our sex, and will therefore freely own, that I feel a mutual passion; only wish that yours be as strong, and prove as lasting, as mine. That dissimulation, which is practised by so many women, I hold in the utmost abhorrence; for which reason I make no scruple of avowing my love, since the object of it is deserving the heart of a princess.

Yours, till death,

S. SHANDY."

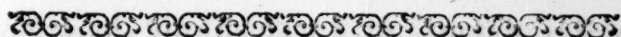
You may, perhaps, be surpris'd at the freedom with which I expressed my sentiments in the letter; but I was always above the constraints of decorum, as much as any lady of quality of them all. Mr. Frankly having received my letter, immediately wrote to me a second time,  
to

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to let me know that he had concerted measures for our having a private interview: how it was brought about, and what passed at it, I will inform you of in another letter.

Yours,

S. SHANDY.



## LETTER VI.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** Soon had the happiness of having a tête à tête with my new lover, who had found means to gain over to his interest a neighbouring farmer and his wife, so as to connive at our making their house the scene of our amorous intercourse. The only difficulty that remained, was to find an opportunity of availing ourselves

ourselves of this convenient place of assignation : this, however, was soon removed. One Sunday in the afternoon, when all the family was going to church, Mr. Frankly having concerted the scheme before received a note, and having read it, declared that an unforeseen accident obliged him to go to a place about three miles distant, and accordingly departed, being pressed by my parents to make his stay as short as possible. I had feigned an indisposition in the evening, which exempted me from the necessity of attending my parents to church; and it happened luckily that after service they were to make a visit, which would, in all probability, detain them the whole evening. Circumstances thus favouring two lovers, who were resolved to turn them to the best advantage, we soon met at the house above-mentioned, and were received by  
6 the

the farmer's wife, who had made tea for us; but as she easily guessed that we were not come there for nothing but to drink tea, she soon, very discreetly, quitted the room; and her disappearing was so well timed, that I have been tempted to think that such conjunctures were not new to her. When we were thus left alone, I appeal to you, brother, whether my situation was not dangerous; a young girl, tête à tête, with one of the handsomest young fellows in the kingdom, is surely in a ticklish situation, but, happily, a m--d-n-h--d can be lost but once. With regard to what happened at this interview I shall not be very particular; I shall only remind you of what you must have perceived already; namely, that I was a very civil young lady; that the gentleman was a very civil young gentleman; so it follows of course, that many very civil things  
must

must have passed between us : here it is probable you may be inquisitive to know whether these civil things were said or done. Why both, brother : you must know, a lover upon certain occasions, never says a civil thing without doing a civil thing ; and Mr. Frankly at the time I am speaking of, said and did so many civil things, that I was quite enchanted with him, and, at parting, longed for a repetition of the same civilities. We could not procure ourselves such interviews as often as I desired, for fear of creating a suspicion ; but some more such we had. However I soon found, that love is a more cloying meat to men than to women, for cool indifference soon discovered itself in my young Lothario ; but this I bore rather more patiently than Calista did the indifference of her lover. I never once thought of flying out, and calling him, Villain !  
monster !



monster ! base betrayer ! but retained a grateful remembrance of the pleasures already received, reflecting, that those joys were lodged beyond the power of fate. You see, brother, I am of a philosophical turn of thinking ; and this is not to be wondered at, considering that I am so nearly related to a philosopher as eminent as yourself. The philosophy which I have always cultivated in my amours, consists in abridging all the inconveniencies that attend the passion of love, and tasting its sweets, pure and unmixed ; and let me tell you, brother, a woman that can compass that, may vie for philosophical fame with the grave author from whom you have taken the serious motto to your comical book. If you are curious to know what secret the philosophical part of the sex have devised, in order to separate the pains of love from its pleasures, it is no

other than this, to be firmly convinced, that one handsome young fellow is full as good as any other handsome young fellow.——Here, perhaps, you may ask me, do I make no difference between young men, and may not one be handsomer and genteeler than another— Why, to tell you the truth, I make but very little difference between men ; any man that is handsome enough to please, is handsome enough for me. Farewel, brother, and endeavour to edify by the example of your philosophical sister, by regulating your behaviour to our sex by the same rule.      I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

LETTER

LETTER VII.

DEAR BROTHER,

**M**R. Frankly being grown tired of me, soon grew tired of my father's house, and pretending to have some business at London which required his immediate departure, took his leave; and thus was I abandoned and forsaken by my faithless swain. Lord, brother, you men are strange inconstant creatures; but I can't but think that woman a much stranger creature, that is so weak as to regret a loss that may be so easily repaired. For my part I soon found means to give Mr. Frankly a successor: a midshipman coming down to pass some weeks at the neighbouring village, soon attracted my attention at church; nor did I pass unnoticed by him. He could not be above nineteen or twenty

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ty years of age : he had long black hair tied behind ; he was dressed in his uniform, which every body knows to be blue lappelled with white ; this dress became him highly. He was not very tall, being the lowest of the middle stature : his complexion was fair and ruddy, glowing with health ; and though his sprightly countenance had something of the alertness of a soldier in it, were his hair powdered and dressed by a French hair-cutter, he would have passed for an effeminate beau. So small an alteration may thus convert things into their opposites : his face, tho' not quite so handsome as Mr. Frankly's, had something in it that appeared more tempting to a woman, as it seemed to discover more promising symptoms. The emotions I felt in beholding this young officer were not of as delicate a nature as those inspired by Mr. Frankly ; they  
seemed

seemed to contain something of a grosser kind; whereas the sentiments caused by the other were more sublimated, and bordered a little, indeed, but very little upon the refined love of the Platonists. It is not, however, to be wondered at, that as I grew experienced, I should begin to have a more solid way of thinking. Indeed I was always equally removed from the two extremes; I mean of those silly, infatuated girls, who, by studying Cassandra, Clelia, and Cleopatra, fill their heads with strange romantic notions, think that every man should be an Oroondates, or an Alexander, and would make love so sentimental and nonsensical, that a woman who is not quite visionary, could never submit to love by their chimerical rules. On the other hand, I was never of so coarse an appetite as to resemble those women, of whom Polydore says,

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“ When your loose desires once get the better  
of you,  
No hungry churl feeds coarser at a feast :  
Every rank fool goes down ——— ”      ORPHAN.

For my part I always required three things in a man; namely, a handsome face, a genteel person, and that with regard to age, he should neither be above six-and-twenty, nor much under fifteen. As for the understanding I never much troubled my head about that; or rather, I always took it for granted, that a handsome face never belonged to a fool. The same internal defect, which implies want of understanding, gives a disagreeable air to the face, which is utterly inconsistent with beauty. I will, at the same time, acknowledge, that it is impossible for a handsome man to be a man of deep sense, reflexion, or learning; or rather, that it is impossible for a man of deep sense, reflection,



tion, or learning, to be handsome; for intense thought, and application of mind, give an expression to the face, which is incompatible with beauty. Thus the studious man has generally an over-serious, a self-sufficient, or a proud and surly look. Nay, I have known a youth of twenty, by application to an art, which perhaps requires as much thought as any other, I mean painting, become as wrinkled as a man of fifty. I will add one observation before I quit this subject, which was always a favourite subject of mine: it is impossible for a bad man to be handsome; for pride, envy, ill-nature, and other vices, stamp an expression on the face, which can never fail to render it unamiable. This is so true, that whenever I see a young man, in whose face I could not shew any particular defect, and yet have thought it ugly, taken for all in all, I always con-

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cluded that it belonged to a villain ; and  
real events have generally evinced the  
truth of my observation. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



## L E T T E R   V I I I .

DEAR BROTHER,

**I**N my last I just opened my third  
amour, with a description of the per-  
son of him who captivated my heart for  
the third time : I cannot but think such  
descriptions absolutely necessary, in order  
to prepare you for what is to follow. To  
proceed : one evening that I happened to  
be at the house of the farmer before-  
mentioned, whither I had been sent by my  
mother,

mother, who was then a little indisposed, to procure something that might be of service to her from the farmer's wife, who understood, or was thought to understand, the nature of herbs, simples, &c. and had made many salutary potions, which might vie in efficacy with any in an apothecary's shop, she told me that there was a gentleman in the next room who had some business of importance to impart to me, and immediately introduced me to the young spark, whom I have described before. No sooner had he accosted me, which he did with a tolerable assurance, but the experienced dame left us, telling me that she would go directly and prepare something that would certainly relieve my mother. When we were thus left alone, Sir, said I to the young officer, it appears a little extraordinary to me, that Mrs. ——— should

have introduced me in so abrupt a manner to a gentleman with whom I am entirely unacquainted ; but you seem to be so much of a gentleman, that I am convinced that I need not be under any apprehensions whilst I am in your company. Madam, said he, after having locked the door, you may depend upon it that I am a man of honour ; and I will make it appear, that I know the respect due to a lady as well as any officer in the navy. Having said this he drew his chair nigh mine, and a conversation ensued ; the particulars of which may be easily guessed by a man of your sagacity. In the course of this conversation I happened, inadvertently, to take hold of his fine hair, which I have described already, and such was my absence of mind, that I played with it with my fingers.—Lord, what an inconsiderate creature I was ! The young spark  
was

was not quite as absent as I was; for he immediately took notice of it; and taking me about the waist, led me to —, not to a clock, brother; such a piece of mechanism may be of great consequence in conjugal love, as husband and wife must observe some regularity in adjusting certain family-accounts; and the former may have his private reasons for not caring to exceed a limited time. He led me to a c—ch, a thing of much more consequence to the intercourse of lovers, tho' they often find that an arbor, or a grass-plot, answers their purposes full as well. Here you may very probably be surprised, that I should venture myself alone with a man, in a room where there was a c—ch. I assure you, brother, it was not owing to any overweening confidence in my virtue; I had some reason to distrust that, having before experienced of how little force virtue is against an opportunity. Lord, brother,

ther, what is virtue to an opportunity ? But I told you already, brother, that I was a strange heedless creature, subject to a very unaccountable absence of mind ; so, I assure you, I took no manner of notice of the c—ch when first I entered the room, and then I saw something in the young gentleman that made an impression upon me. Lady Wishfort says, that a woman should make the first impression upon a couch ; but it is my opinion that a man should make the first impression at some public place, and then a c—ch would not be amiss, in order to renew the first impression, and make some subsequent impressions. You men are so given to detraction, that I do not doubt but you will put some bad interpretation upon what I say : but this is only an innocent freedom of speech which I indulge myself in : how insipid would all conversation and literary correspondence be without innocent freedoms. But to return to my story :



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When we were obliged to part, we engaged ourselves, by a mutual promise, to have a second interview as soon as possible. Here I think I see you ready to ask me with what intention. Lord, you men are so suspicious: well, say what you will, you are a thousand times more censorious than women. Why, my only view when I promised to meet the gentleman a second time was to converse with him over a dish of tea: such a thing, you know, could not be productive of any thing incompatible with the most rigid virtue. Had I, indeed, promised to meet him over a bottle of wine, or a bowl of punch, you might justly have surmised something to the disadvantage of my virtue; but tea, what can be more innocent? The very steam of it is virtuous, and suggests a laudable zeal for reputation to the prude, as powerfully as the fumes of coffee.

fee inspire the politician with patriotism, and a public-spirited regard for the good of the nation. Such is the efficacy of tea in promoting female virtue, tho' an impertinent poet has represented it as fatal to the reputation of women.

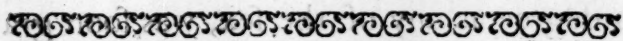
“Tea, how I tremble at thy awful steam,  
Like Lethe fatal to the love of fame.”

YOUNG'S *Satires*,

With this elogium of tea I shall conclude my letter, and subscribe myself

Yours affectionately,

S. SHANDY.



## LETTER IX.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** Shall not trouble you with an account of my succeeding interviews with the midshipman, who soon left the country ;

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country ; and when he took his leave assured me, that he would always retain me in his heart,

“ His ever gentle mistress and his friend.”

I made a suitable answer to his compliment; tho', to tell you the truth, I did not much regret his loss, as I began even then to have a relish for variety. — What would life be without dear variety, and, above all, a woman's life? — Why variety is the idol of the sex, the love of change is their ruling passion, tho' an old bard has represented the love of power as such. This passion, which I had in as great a degree as any of the sex, was soon gratified, and, at the same time, another passion, which had equal influence over me, was gratified in like manner. Not long after the departure of my sea-lover, I happened to be invited to a ball at the house

of

of a neighbouring gentleman, where it fell out that a young lieutenant of foot was my partner: this I was not displeased at; and you will guess the reason when I have described his person. He was a little above the middle stature, perfectly well shaped; his hair, which he wore tied behind, was dark, but not quite black; it was not very long, but the short natural cue which hung upon his back, was more pleasing to my eyes than any full-bottomed wig ever made by the most skilful peruke-maker. From my frequent descriptions of hair, you may perceive how important I think it in any man:—I could never endure wigs, especially since I was given to understand, that what first gave occasion to them was the spreading of a certain disease, which has often cruelly embittered the joys of love. To return to my officer. His face, which was neither

ther fat nor lean, was bespread with a youthful bloom, which however did not approach to red : his eyes were hazle, and had more sweetness than fire in them, and his countenance had in it a mildness which could not fail to please. You may be sure I was highly pleased with having such a partner ; and the more so, as I soon found not only by his looks, but by several squeezes of the hand, which it was not possible for the rest of the company to perceive, that he saw me in as favourable a light as I did him. The dance had not continued long when I was seized with an odd indisposition, which made me declare my resolution of going home directly. There was nothing dangerous in my indisposition ; it was, I believe, a sort of fit, occasioned by my having drank too much tea. My partner, after having expressed his concern, immediately offered to see

me home, which I, with some seeming reluctance, accepted. It was a fine evening; and as we walked along thro' a sequestered path, I could perceive that he had his arms about my waist; but my spirits were so much lowered by my indisposition, that I did not expostulate with him upon the liberty he took, or endeavour to disengage myself. To own the truth I then wanted somebody to support me; so I leaned upon my conductor's arm, and thus we went on till we passed by the house of the farmer before-mentioned, upon which I declared my desire of going in, and taking something to revive my spirits. We entered, and were immediately conducted to the room I have described before, by the woman of the house, and I soon after took a cordial presented to me by the hands of the young officer, which entirely dispelled my indisposition. You



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may, perhaps, be curious to know what this cordial was. Well, brother, I will gratify your curiosity: why, this cordial was only a glass of ratafia: I would not have you think that I make a practice of dram-drinking; but you know, brother, any thing is allowable for the preservation of one's health. To conclude my adventure, I did not think it adviseable to go any farther with the young officer; and having signified my intentions, he immediately took his leave. The farmer's son was dispatched hereupon to our house, with an account of the accident that befel me; and the chaise was immediately sent to convey me from the farmer's house to our own. I acted my part so well upon this occasion, that my parents never once formed the least suspicion; but being entirely taken up with concern for my health, did all that lay in their power to relieve me,

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but

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but nothing they could do had half the  
efficacy of the glass of ratafia at the thatched  
cabbिन.      I am,

Dear Brother,  
Your affectionate sister,  
S. SHANDY.

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## L E T T E R   X.

DEAR BROTHER,

**T**HERE has hitherto been a sameness in my adventures, which you may perhaps have found tedious; but my story will soon be more diversified, as I shall shortly play my part in the great metropolis of these kingdoms. London is surely the best place in the world for the education of a young lady: it in this respect, at least, equals Paris; for though  
in

in this latter city there is a greater external appearance of freedom among women, the solid pleasures of love are enjoyed in as high a degree of perfection in the former. I may, however, say without vanity, that though born in an obscure corner of the country, I never missed a London education; so great is the advantage of being by nature endowed with a quick and lively genius. I shall now inform you what occasioned my being introduced into what is called the world. You must, doubtless, remember our aunt Dorothy Shandy, tho' London was her place of residence, she sometimes, but very rarely, paid us a visit in the country. She was a little advanced in years, and of such a matron-like appearance, as would very well become Dianna Trapes in the Beggars Opera. She had not been long at our house, when she

took notice of me as a girl of great spirit; and in several conversations sounded me with questions; to which I answered so pertinently, that she formed a very advantageous idea of my understanding. She therefore soon after took an occasion to propose to my parents to send me up to town with her, insinuating her expectation, that I would there shortly meet with an advantageous match. My parents readily consented; and it was very visible that they thought this would be the means of delivering them from a burthen they did not care to be encumbered with. After I had taken leave of my parents, with very little regret on either side, my aunt and I departed for London in the stage-coach. Here you may very probably ask, why she chose rather to go in the stage-coach than her own? To this I answer, that it was because she kept  
none

none. I soon found that the sex was treated with but very little ceremony in stage-coaches. The other travellers were two sea-captains, a Scotchman, whose occupation I could not guess at by his appearance, and an ensign of foot. The ensign, who was a short black man, with such frizzled hair as would have been a very good excuse for his wearing a wig, seemed to have scarce dosed off the fumes of the last night's debauch. I soon found myself right in my conjecture ; for after having indulged himself with a short nap, he, without ceremony, informed the company, that he had got fuddled the night before with some of his fellow-officers, and one of them observing that his wig did not curl, he immediately took it off and threw it into the fire, and let it burn, queue and all. After we had gone on a little farther, without any material con-

versation, he addressed himself to my aunt in so familiar a manner, that I thought they had been a long time acquainted. He asked her whether as much company frequented her house as formerly, adding, that he proposed shortly to pay her a visit if his health would permit him. He soon after inquired about her husband, which surprised me, as I always understood that my aunt was a single woman. But my surprize still increased, when he asked her whether he did her business as well as usual? and whether he still spoke with the same hoarse boatswain's voice? These familiarities surprised me; but soon after one of the sea-captains, and the Scotchman attacked me in the same dialect. This rivalry produced a sort of a quarrel between them, the sailor swearing that he had been a-head of the Scotchman, who, with a broad Scotch accent, made



answer, No, you have supplanted me like a traitor : ah, Judaus Iscariot. Tho' the terms of courtship used by these two polite suitors, were by no means delicate, I was far from being disconcerted by their effrontery ; and being mistress of an extraordinary presence of mind, and a great readiness at repartee, I made such answers as soon delivered me from their impertinence. Thus, brother, you see I know how to bring down my man more ways than one. Many a foolish country girl would have blushed, and been overwhelmed with confusion upon this occasion ; but, thank my stars, I was never subject to the uneasy sensation of shame, than which nothing can be more unbecoming a woman of spirit, as appears evidently from the conduct of ladies of quality, who seem to have laid it aside as awkward, and fit only for low wretches.

My behaviour upon this occasion was so proper, that it entirely freed me from the persecution of the two low-lived fellows above-mentioned; so the conversation grew somewhat more decent, and the ensign, who seemed before to take but little notice of me, afterwards addressed his conversation chiefly to me; and I was so much upon my guard in my answers, that I really believe I passed upon him for a woman of condition. Nothing very remarkable happened during the remainder of our journey. We arrived that very night in London: my aunt immediately sent for a hackney-coach, and ordered the coachman to drive to her house, at the sign of the Punch-bowl and Petticoat in Drury-Lane. In passing thro' the streets of London, every object that met my eyes filled me with a secret delight: I thought that I had been out  
of

of my sphere all my life before, and that I was now re-entering my native home. The hurry and bustle of the streets was entirely to my taste, and pleased me much more than the dull tranquillity of the country. As it was then late, and my aunt and I were both tired, she ordered supper to be served up in a back-parlour, which being over, she wished me a good night, and bidding the maid light me to my room, went up stairs. The maid, if she can properly be called so, conducted me to a room, which was neither large nor well furnished. I had not before had an opportunity of taking particular notice of her ; but when we entered the room I eyed her attentively, and could not but think I had seen her somewhere before : she viewed me with equal earnestness, and our surprize was mutual, when I in her discovered Susan, and she in me Miss Sukey,

key, her young mistress sometime before. I could not but express my curiosity to know what had happened to her since she was dismissed my father's service, and she gratified it, by letting me know, that after the unfortunate discovery which has been related before, she set out with Christopher for London, where they were both equally at a loss, not being acquainted with a living soul. That after they had lodged a while in the same house where they passed for brother and sister, an Irish gentleman (I thought he must be a gentleman, said she, for he wore a bagwig and a sword, and was dressed in a suit of brown rateen, laced with gold) addressed himself to her, and proposed to take her into keeping. She gladly accepted the offer, seeing herself upon the point of being reduced to the most extreme distress: she continued to inform me, that  
he

Miss SUKEY SHANDY. 75

he took lodgings for her near Soho-square; but after they had cohabited together about three weeks, he disappeared one morning, and the very same day the woman of the house missed, as she affirmed, to the value of eight pounds in plate. She was then, she said, in a terrible perplexity, as the landlady then charged her for board and lodging, and even talked of getting her arrested, upon suspicion of being an accomplice in the theft. Happily for her Mrs. Dorothy Shandy just then came to the house, as she had some connections with the landlady, and enquiring into the affair, desired to see and speak with her. Being a woman of penetration she easily dived to the bottom of the affair; and being convinced by Susan's answers of her innocence, she offered to satisfy the landlady for the three weeks board and lodging, and took Susan home with her, where  
she

she had remained ever since in the quality of a servant. This account awakened my curiosity, and I asked Susan several other questions; from her answers to which I soon found that my aunt Dorothy was one of those civil, obliging old ladies, that accommodate gentlemen with a pot of tea, a private room, and a pack of cards. So you see, brother, ours is an illustrious family, and that you are not the only person of worth belonging to it. The place occupied by my aunt is, perhaps, the most important that can be occupied by a woman; and she that acquits herself of the duties of it in a conscientious manner, may justly be looked upon as a public benefit. I was by no means displeased at receiving the information above-mentioned, as I had always a great longing to see the world, and now began to think myself in a fair way of having



having my desire gratified. In the Recruiting Officer, Sylvia, whose character I always greatly admired, says, that a man cannot know the world without having half a hundred friendships, and as many amours; and if this is true of man, whose intellectual faculties are so much superior to those of our sex, surely a woman, in order to know the world, should have at least five hundred amours; as for friendships we can do pretty well without them. How it may be with your sex I cannot tell; but I dare venture to affirm, that no woman would be sorry if there was never another woman in the world. Lord, how happy would a woman be if she was the only female in a country inhabited by men; she might certainly reign over them like a queen, and lead them according to her will and pleasure: however this might perhaps be productive  
of

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of ill consequences too, and I believe  
things are better as nature has contrived  
them. Let there be ever so many wo-  
men, there will always be men enough  
for them all, or near the matter. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY."



## LETTER XI.

DEAR BROTHER,

**Y**OU see I act the part of a kind sister,  
not only in informing you without  
reserve of such particulars as few women  
would care to communicate even to a bro-  
ther, but likewise in setting you right with  
regard to some family-circumstances,  
which you might before have been igno-  
rant of. To proceed with my narrative :

My

My aunt told me next morning at breakfast, that it was a melancholy consideration, that a young woman of my accomplishments should have so long been buried in the obscurity of the country : My dear Sukey, said she, your fortune had been made long since, had you been produced upon the brilliant theatre of the town ; but thank God it is not too late yet :—there is no place like London—you shall see company immediately, and if you take my advice, and behave discreetly, you may depend upon it you will find your account in it. I was not such a novice but I guessed what she meant by this ; and I gave her to understand by my answer, that I was willing to be directed by a woman of her superior understanding. Perhaps, brother, you may be surprised that I should prefer this way of life to that I led in the country with my parents ; but

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I always loved liberty; and I imagined I should be under much less constraint here than at home. Besides, I had for a considerable time longed to see the town, and enjoy its pleasures, of which I had formed a pretty good idea from the works of some ingenious authors, particularly that excellent book, entitled, *The Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*; in reading which I always took as much delight as the supposed authoress could have done in leading such a life. My aunt continued to inform me, that there was a great deal of company to sup at her house that very night, and telling me that I should be one of the party, admonished me to act the part of a v--g-n, for which she had reasons which are not hard to be guessed at. About nine o'clock at night the company came; I stayed awhile in a parlour, near the room where they met, by the direc-

tions of my aunt Dorothy, who soon after brought in a gentleman who had dealt with her for a commodity which he thought me possessed of, tho' there did not now remain the least vestige of it. This gentleman, tho' not absolutely disagreeable in his person, was the most ordinary man that I yet had an affair with, and so I shall not describe his person. After a very short conversation, in which I answered to the satisfaction of my tutoress, he introduced me to the company in the next room, by the name of Miss Lydia Hooper, for that was the name my aunt intended I should go by, having her private reasons for keeping it a secret that we were a kin. The company was composed of five gentlemen and five ladies, who appeared at first sight to be of the profession into which I had just been initiated. Their manners were very free,

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and

and the whole company seemed very well disposed to mirth, in which I would willingly have joined with them, but was obliged to assume a demure behaviour as more suitable to the character I personated. This, however, was a considerable constraint to the natural gaiety of my temper. After supper the gentlemen and ladies plied the glass with equal alacrity; and I, seemingly declining to keep pace with them, was pressed to it by my gallant, who, notwithstanding all my apparent reluctance, at last prevailed. Tho' I had several times enjoyed the pleasures that Venus dispenses to her votaries, this was the first time I tasted those bestowed by Bacchus, and now I began to think that the latter must greatly contribute to heighten the former. After a night spent in singing, swearing, and loose conversation, each knight-errant retired to his

Dul.



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Dulcinea; and I played my part so well, that my gentleman never upon suspected that he had been imposed once this was, indeed, in a great measure owing to some preparatory measures taken by my aunt, who was very knowing and skilful in her profession. The next night, about the same hour, my new lover had a second interview with me: the rest of the company consisted entirely of new male visitors, amongst whom I was surpris'd to discover——guess who, brother—I discovered my old gallant Frankly. Surprize was so visible in both our countenances, that it would certainly have been taken notice of, had not the rest of the company been then in so noisy and laughing a humour as to mind nothing. We both, however, soon recollected ourselves, and behaved in such a manner that no one would have suspect-

ed that we had been old acquaintances. My lover having passed a second night with me, his passion greatly abated. Probably he might have been so nice as to be satisfied with nothing but the above-mentioned commodity, which must surely be very scarce in Drury-Lane, and which may be very much called in question elsewhere: be that as it will, he discovered no desire to pass a third night with me; and this I was not sorry for, being already grown weary of him. Tho' I was glad that Frankly had not discovered his knowledge of me, I was desirous of having a private interview with him; not that I felt my former passion revive, but thro' a mere motive of curiosity, a passion very predominant in a woman, I longed to have a conversation with him, in order to know whether I was totally obliterated from his heart. I am, your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

LETTER XII.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE opportunity which I longed for did not immediately offer itself, but something happened that made me wait it patiently. A dancer, belonging to the opera, at that time began to frequent our house; and it was with pleasure I perceived that he distinguished me amongst the other ladies of pleasure, whose venal charms contributed to bring custom to my aunt. Thus my satisfaction was enhanced, by observing the jealousy which this preference occasioned in my companions; for whatever may have been asserted to the contrary, common prostitutes are not altogether unsusceptible of the passion of love; and tho' ever so much hackneyed in intrigue, a handsome young

fellow never fails to make an impression on them: such an appellation seems, indeed, too weak for the dancer in question, whose beauty might vie with that of an Adonis, or a Narcissus. He was rather tall, and his person, which was elegant and exactly shaped, inclined to the slender. His hair, which was light and of a fine colour, exactly suited his complexion, which was extremely clear and fair, and his eyes, which were of a fine colour, shewed a dove-like mildness, more pleasing than the lustre of those piercing black eyes which are common in his countrymen: in fine, his face discovered a delicacy, mixed with an effeminate softness, not to be surpassed by that of any woman. I was particularly pleased with having made such an acquaintance, as I always looked upon dancing as an accomplishment essential to a young lady. This  
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elegant accomplishment I was deprived of by my odious country education. Lord, brother, what is a young lady without dancing : I mean genteel dancing, such as can be learned only from a Frenchman, or an Italian ; for as for plain country-dances I had learned them before I came to town ;—so, brother, I thought myself happy in having met with a master capable of teaching me fine dancing in all its branches. As he was an Italian I learned some certain steps from him, which are not so frequently taught by the best French dancing masters. If I was fond of dancing before, I grew enamoured of it after I had received a few lessons from signor Valentini, for that was his name. But, alas ! in a short time my dancing-master, whether on account of the multitude of his avocations, or some accident which I could not guess

at, left off attendance, and I was now in a great perplexity. I was sadly afraid I should forget what I had learned, tho' I was indeed an apt scholar, and the few lessons I had received had made a great impression on me. I was therefore constantly upon the look-out for a dancer, fit to supply the place of signor Valentini, and fortune soon favoured my wishes. A young Frenchman, who was then a chorus-dancer at Drury-Lane play-house, came pretty often to my aunt's; and tho' she did not think much of such a guest, because he was not able to spend much at her house, I was very glad of this opportunity of recovering my dancing, and so, at the intervals of my attendance on company, I took a lesson from Mons. Dupied, who, tho' but a chorus-dancer, was capable of teaching a minuet, or a pas de trois to any countess in the land. He was  
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not so fine a young man as the Italian, but he was a very pretty fellow, and had a sprightliness and vivacity which never fails to enchant our sex : for as Dryden justly observes,

“Our thoughtless sex is caught with outward form  
And empty noise, and loves itself in man.”

Tho' low he was exactly shaped, and had exceeding good limbs ; his eyes and hair were dark, and his complexion ruddy. There was something very pleasing in his face, and this, upon examination, I found to consist in the liveliness and good humour, visible in his features. I profited so well by the instructions of this master, that I, in a short time, could acquit myself in a French dance, as well as any lady of quality in the kingdom. Lord, brother, why did you never learn to dance—you'll tell me, perhaps, that dancing is  
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not an accomplishment for a philosopher ; but surely, brother, you that are a scholar cannot be ignorant that Socrates, the prince of philosophers, learned to dance in his old age. And let me tell you, brother, that many who form a judgment of you from your writings, have agreed that you are admirably calculated to shine in a grotesque dance. Nay, some have gone so far as to assert, that you must have been in a dancing humour when you composed your extraordinary work ; tho' for a dance you seem somewhat extravagant and wild, so that it is frequently affirmed of you, that you have as many humours as a dancing bear. Do, brother, take my advice ; learn to dance, and then we will call you Tristram Shandy, the dancing philosopher. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

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LETTER XIII.

DEAR BROTHER,

WHEN I had learned to dance I began to think myself above living in subjection to my aunt, and I waited with impatience for an opportunity of bettering my condition; such an opportunity soon after offered itself: a gentleman, with whom I had an interview one night at my aunt's, proposed to take me into keeping, and I very gladly accepted his offer. I, however, expressed some uneasiness at quitting my aunt, who had behaved to me with great tenderness and affection; but he told me that he would take care to make that matter easy; and accordingly used arguments, which were of such weight with her, that she readily consented to part with me. At our taking

ing leave, which was a very moving scene, she gave me a great deal of wholesome advice, and representing the fickleness of men to me, in very pathetic terms, she concluded her admonition with these emphatical words; "Miss Sukey, set a proper value upon yourself; the more you make of yourself the more the men will make of you, and, above all, take care to shun low fellows; they have been the ruin of many a girl that might otherwise have made her fortune." I afterwards found reason to wish that I had not neglected this latter part of her advice. Mr. Bellamy, for that was my keeper's name, took a genteel lodging for me, not far from Gray's-Inn, where he had chambers. There seldom passed a day but he paid me a visit, and he often supped with me, and passed the night at my lodgings. He had a particular reason for never being  
seen

seen with me at his chambers, as he lived with a relation who would not have failed to give his father intelligence of our intrigue. He was so very polite, that whenever he was so engaged that he could not give me a call, he always sent to let me know that I might not wait for him to no purpose. He happened one day to send his French hair-cutter upon this errand ; he was strangely overseen in chusing such a person for this commission. In the whole course of my amours I never saw a handsomer young fellow ; his eyes I shall not take upon me to describe ; it would baffle all the skill of a painter to represent them upon canvass : his hair was dark, but he wore it powdered, and in a bag, like most of his trade : his white clothes became him vastly : he was low, but perfectly well shaped ; and in his face there was a sweetness inexpressible, which was rendered

rendered still more enchanting by the ease and politeness of his address. He lisped his English in a manner that pleased my ear prodigiously ; and to conclude, I was so struck with his figure, that my fancy formed him of the angelic kind. No sooner had he delivered his message, which he did with a grace not to be expressed ; but I began to think he might be very capable of supplying the place of his master ; and if Bellmour's doctrine be good, that a woman, in the absence of her husband, should endeavour to alleviate her grief for being deprived of him, by chusing a gallant whose features have a resemblance to his :—surely a kept mistress may be allowed to supply the place of her keeper, without being under the disagreeable necessity of chusing one who resembles him. I will freely own to you, brother, that one of my reasons for tak-



ing a liking to this young fellow was, that he had not the least resemblance to Mr. Bellamy; for, as I had been confined to him alone for some months, the natural inconstancy of my temper began to get the ascendant, and I then should have been glad to have changed him too for of inferior personal accomplishments. What then, must have been my sentiments, when there stood before me a youth as much superior to Bellamy as Hyperion to a satyr! I could not hesitate a moment where to give the preference; for tho' the heyday of my blood was not then over, it was so far temperate as to wait upon the judgment, and what judgment could hesitate a moment about quitting a satyr for Hyperion. Seeing that Mons. Merlan, who had delivered his message, was preparing to take his leave with a low bow, I told him I had some-  
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thing to ask him about Mr. Bellamy, and desired him to stay; but considering that our conversation was likely to be pretty long, I desired him to sit down, which he did, after modestly excusing himself. When he was seated I drew my chair near his, and telling him I was credibly informed that Mr. Bellamy was inconstant, asked him how he thought a woman should behave to an inconstant lover? To which he answered, “Madame, when a lover is inconstant to a lady, that has so many agremens as yourself, he deserve that his maitresse should be inconstant to him, and dat is de most terrible sort that can befall him.” By this answer I perceived that my gentleman was ready enough to take the meaning of the question I had proposed. Lord, Mons. Merlan, said I, you speak of inconstancy as a thing pardonable in our sex as in your

own. “ Et sans contredit, madame, replied he, it is just the same thing, C’est tout a fait la même chose. Why should de gentleman have any privilege that is denied to the lady ?” Monsieur, said I, your sentiments discover a generous mind; but supposing I had a mind to give M. Bellamy a rival, would not you be the first to discover it to him ? What answer he made I cannot now easily recollect; but before he left the room, things happened out in such a manner, that he had very cogent reasons for not informing M. Bellamy of the conversation that had passed between us. The next day I saw M. Bellamy, and the satisfaction he expressed in my company, fully proves the truth of Othello’s observation :

“ He that is robb’d, not wanting what is stol’n,  
Let him not know it, and he’s not robb’d at all.”

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I must own, indeed, that what he was robbed of was of very little consequence, and I cannot give you a more just idea of its worth, than by saying in the words of Iago, that

“ ’Twas something, nothing, had been mine,  
Was his, and might be another's in a day or two.”

But to conclude this part of my history, Mr. Bellamy having some time after sent monsieur with the same message he had brought me before, we immediately prepared to avail ourselves of his absence, and to the full enjoyed a pleasure which was soon to cost us dear. For one of those mal-a-propos accidents, which so frequently occasion separations between husband and wife, now happened to us, who, as hath appeared already, behaved too like husband and wife to each other. To explain myself: whilst I and my French paramour,

ramour, like light and heat, lay incorporate, and having tasted joys too fierce to last for ever, indolently reposed, gently reclining on each other, and wrapt in mutual contemplation; that curst intruder, Bellamy, came in, and beheld a sight which may very probably be more disagreeable to a keeper than a husband; at least, the disgrace of the latter is much alleviated by the damages which he may recover, which have been said to have tempted many a husband to contribute to his own cuckoldom; whereas the poor keeper has no such satisfaction to hope for: all he can do is to turn his disloyal mistress out of doors. But to return to my story:

Bellamy no sooner saw us in the attitude above described, but he fell upon my unhappy lover, and unmercifully kick'd him



round the room, and then down stairs. This incensed me to the highest degree, and so great was my fury at seeing the dear creature that I doated on treated with such indignity, that I broke out into the most bitter reproaches of Bellamy, and loaded him with every injurious epithet of our language. He had, however, so far recovered his temper as to hear me with great composure; and when I had tired myself with venting my spleen to no purpose, he, with a philosophical air, signified to me that it was his resolution that I should not stay an hour longer in those lodgings. At this intimation my anger entirely subsided, and I endeavoured to soften him by shedding a flood of tears, for I had tears always at command, and they have been highly serviceable to me upon many occasions: however, the hard-hearted Bellamy was so far from being melted, at seeing her,

“Late



Miss SUKEY SHANDY. 101

“Late his bliss and sole delight,  
Now at his feet submissive, in distress.”

MILTON.

that I was obliged to quit my new lodging which I had not occupied above three months. At parting I loaded the obdurate wretch with curses and imprecations, for I was as perfect a mistress of this branch of rhetoric as if I had been bred in Newgate. So you see, brother, that I was perfectly qualified in every respect to carry on the trade I had began, and, consequently, was not unworthy of being sister to the renowned Tristram Shandy. I am,

Yours affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

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LETTER

## L E T T E R XIV.

DEAR BROTHER,

**B**EING thus cast off I found myself reduced to ply about the streets for customers, not caring to return to my aunt's, who I knew would be but little satisfied with my conduct; and, to tell the truth, she could have but little reason to be so. I had not been long upon the look-out, when I met the midshipman who had made acquaintance with me in the country. He immediately recollected me, and tho' he at first shewed a little surprize, he soon guessed at my situation, and desired my company to the next tavern: I gladly accepted the offer, and to the tavern we went, where he immediately ordered a roasted fowl and a bottle of wine. Tho' I had been a little dejected before,

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the wine soon raised my spirits ; for which reason I plied the glass so smartly that another bottle was called for, and another after that. We drank several healths ; and those which I gave were as free as those given by my lover. You may, perhaps, be inquisitive to know whether we did any thing else but eat and drink ; but you must excuse me from gratifying your curiosity in this particular. The midshipman, at parting, made me a present, which at this juncture was very acceptable. Being again reduced to ply about the streets I raised contributions on many gentlemen and others, without meeting with any accident worth relating. Whilst I continued this course of life, which now began to grow very disagreeable to me, I one day met in the street the very individual Christopher, who had the first possession of my heart. Our surprize was mutual

at seeing each other again : Christopher was dressed in a blue livery, with a shoulder-knot, and wore a silver-laced hat : he accosted me as soon as his surprize was over ; and I could perceive by the symptoms of concern, which he shewed in his countenance, for the situation I was in, that he had still some remains of affection for me. He proposed to adjourn to a neighbouring alehouse : as pride was by no means an ingredient in my disposition, I did not refuse the invitation ; so to the alehouse we went : Christopher asked me what I chose to drink ; upon which I told him that my liquor was rum-punch, which I always drank warm, but in small quantities, as sixpennyworth was my usual stint. Christopher having received this information, called for sixpennyworth of warm rum-punch for me, and a pot of porter for himself. He then asked me

whether smoaking was offensive to me; to which, when I replied in the negative, he called for a pipe and a paper of tobacco, and drinking to my good health, began to smoak. When I saw myself thus, tête à tête, with Christopher, I could not help recollecting the summer-house, in which I first lost my innocence, and which gave occasion to my being then reduced to drink in an alehouse: however, I do not pretend to charge Christopher with being the author of my ruin. If he had my m—d—n—d, it was only because he was the first. When Christopher and I had awhile amused ourselves with our liquor, we gave each other mutual information concerning our respective conditions; the result of which seemed to promise me an alteration of my affairs for the better. I understood from Christopher's account, that he was in the service of an old

old gentleman of a considerable estate, in whom desire exceeded the power of gratification, and who always kept a mistress, upon whose account he spared no expence. That his last mistress was an inferior actress at Covent Garden play-house, whom he had long suspected of not being over-faithful to him, and at last had turned her off, upon finding his suspicions converted into certainty. At present, continued Christopher, he has no regular mistress, but every day I am sent out upon the look-out for a woman for him to pass the night with. He intends to change them every day, till he can suit himself with a mistress to his mind. If you have no objection to it, said he, I will present you to him, and it may be the means of putting you in a settled way again. I readily accepted the offer, and thanked Christopher for his attachment to my interest.

Christo-



Christopher soon after paid the reckoning, and we left the alehouse, in order to go to his master's. Of the reception I met with I shall inform you in my next letter; but I cannot conclude this, without taking notice of the unaccountable ways in which old acquaintances meet, after a long separation, which are sometimes so extraordinary as to make us look upon those extraordinary incidents, which we meet with in novels, as probable, and founded in nature. I am, &c.

S. SHANDY.

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# LETTER XV.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** Was conducted by Christopher to a large house in Grosvenor-square; being entered he desired me to wait awhile  
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in the parlour whilst he spoke with his master who was in the next room. After a short stay I was introduced to a tall meagre personage, that seemed to be turned of fifty. He was so worn with a constant course of debauchery, that he seemed to be reduced to bone and skin : he put me in mind of Gil Blas's old impotent master ; and so concluding, that he required a demure look and reserved behaviour in a woman, I resolved to act the vestal ; and having been accustomed to assume a variety of different characters, I acquitted myself so well that I captivated the old gentleman, who proposed to take me into keeping ; and the terms he offered were so advantageous, that I could not but think myself highly obliged to Christopher, and resolved to shew my gratitude upon a proper occasion. There was, indeed, nothing very engaging in my  
lover,

who, with respect to amorous delights, resembled those who, by constant drinking, have destroyed their appetites, and have occasion for sauces, ragouts, and high-seasoned dishes, to irritate their stomachs, incapable of digesting stronger food. My new keeper was obliged to have recourse to a provocative, which to me appeared somewhat extraordinary. The very same expedient which school-masters make use of in order to excite the diligence and attention of their scholars, was required to prepare him for the rites of Venus; and yet, after this was properly applied, he acquitted himself so ill, that I could not have born with him, had it not been for interested motives: however, at his intervals of absence, when he went to a neighbouring coffee-house, Christopher found means to console me, or else I should have languished sadly by  
being

being buried in such monumental arms. You will, no doubt, brother, be surpris'd at my indiscretion, as such a conduct had already brought me into disgrace; but such was my constitution, that I could not resist such a temptation let the consequences be what they would. You know, brother, we all have our ruling passion, which being once discovered, furnishes a master-key to all our actions; and from the course of these memoirs, I think it is pretty evident what mine was. Thus I lived for some time, and had no other objection to my condition, but the disagreeable necessity of being obliged to humour all the caprices of impotent concupiscence, when fortune began again to persecute me, not by attacks made against myself, but what is much more affecting to a generous mind against my friends; poor Christopher was turn'd off by his master

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on account of his drunkenness and negligence, so that I saw myself deprived of my only consolation ; and what added to my affliction was, that I could not take my leave of the dear fellow to whom I had so great obligations. Being now confined to the loathsome embraces of my nauseous keeper, in order to banish care I was obliged to have recourse to drinking wine and punch to excess ; but this did not compensate for the want of what was always meat and drink to me. What are all the pleasures of life to a woman who is deprived of the summum bonum of our sex ? This was precisely my situation, for my Limberham of a keeper served only to put me in mind of what I wanted. I was perfectly tantalized ; I had the apple in view, but could never catch at it : in fine, I might as well have been in a nunnery, and perhaps much better ; for the ladies who live in convents have some intercourse



tercourse with priests and friars, who are well known to have more ways of administering consolation than one. Had Christopher's successor been but half as clever as himself, I should not have been much embarrassed; but, alas! he was so old and ugly, that it was hard to tell which he or his master was worst. This undesirable situation did not, however, last long; we always find means to gratify our ruling passion; and my wit had been so sharpened, by being for some time in a state of privation from what I wished for, that I could have vied with an Italian wife in devising stratagems. Indeed, art was necessary in order to compass my ends, for as I had experienced the consequences of one discovery, I did not care to venture another, thinking the hardships I now sufferable preferable to being reduced to ply about the streets for customers. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY."



## LETTER XVI.

DEAR BROTHER,

I informed you in my last that I was greatly perplexed how to procure a new lover, but I may, without vanity, compare myself to the Female Quixote; for tho' I did not, like her, think every man that saw me was in love with me, I was always highly successful in seeking amorous adventures; and I knew there was something in me capable of exciting transcendent desire in any man, if not of kindling a lasting passion. I soon found means to get an old woman that lived in the opposite house, to befriend and assist me in my design, of procuring gallants capable of making up for the inability of my keeper. Having informed some gentlemen who lived in the street, and who

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would,

would, she knew, be glad of such intelligence, of the little satisfaction I enjoyed with my keeper; she represented, in very pathetic terms, that it was a pity that so fine a creature should be thrown away upon an old lecher, that was entirely unworthy of her. She then proposed to each of them, separately, to introduce him whenever the old gentleman was out of the way, promising to watch him so closely, as to give notice as soon as ever he entered the street. Measures being thus concerted, she afterwards introduced several to me successively, and as time was precious, very little of it was lost in previous conversation or courtship. It is possible, brother, as you sometimes deviate into topics of morality, and have even gone so far as to compose sermons, that you may have been often tempted, in reading these my letters, to remonstrate upon the dissoluteness,

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luteness, which the violation of virtue's laws is always attended with, and to exaggerate the superior advantages of virtue: so, brother, to deal plainly with you, I will own to you, once for all, that virtue is my aversion. Lord, why should it be looked upon as virtue in a woman to deny herself the pleasures she most ardently desires, and refuse to contribute to those of the other sex. Lord! Lord, what a fuss some strange formal people make about this same virtue, — a quality entirely negative: for my part I have been always of opinion, that one positive quality is worth fifty negatives, and then to confine a woman's virtue entirely to the foregoing of one enjoyment is, as if women could fall no way but backwards. Certain it is, however, that the word virtue, when applied to women, signifies only the self-denial above-mentioned ;

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which is a tacit acknowledgment that it is not to be expected in a woman; as indeed how should it?—and so, a fig for virtue; virtue is an ass, and a gallant is worth forty of it. However, the contrary course of gratifying our passions is not without its inconveniencies, as you will find, if you take the trouble of reading the remainder of this letter. Among other gallants introduced to me by the old woman before-mentioned, there happened to be a lieutenant of dragoons, who, at parting, made me a present:—here, I think, I see my dear brother, Tristram Shandy, stare, lift up his eyes, and express his astonishment at his sister's fordid love of money. But let me tell you, master Tristram, I scorn the temptation; I am full as generous as yourself, and never took money from any of the nobility and gentry, much less from a commoner, except

cept when I could not conveniently do without. The present he made me was what I could have wished he had kept to himself ; it was a certain disorder, which, to use the words of a celebrated author, some ages ago attacked human nature in the very source of life and pleasure. This present I could not avoid imparting to my keeper, who could know, no doubt, who he was indebted to for it ; and the consequence of this discovery was, that I was once more discarded. Being thus a second time abandoned to the wide world, and infected with a vile disease, I did not at first know which way to turn myself : at last I concluded, that the best, or rather the only course I could take, was to apply to my aunt ; for she was a woman of a humane charitable disposition, and always disposed to compassionate those that met with any unlucky accidents in their

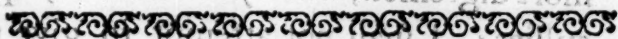


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amorous adventures. Poor woman, how often have I heard her say, if it was not for these plaguy disorders, a young lady that sees company might vie with any dutchess ;—there are many dutchesses, however, who, if they are not foully belied, might vie in these disorders with any lady in the precincts of Covent-Garden.

I am, your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



LETTER XVII.

DEAR BROTHER,

**M**Y aunt received me very kindly ; she was a compassionate woman, and could overlook the frailties of her fellow-creatures : however, she could not help making some remonstrances upon

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the folly of my past conduct, and advising me earnestly to be careful of my interest for the future, and attach myself wholly to whoever should take me into keeping.

For the present I was under a necessity of becoming one of her girls a second time, but I hoped soon to meet with a new keeper. Cullies are seldom wanting in this metropolis; and a woman of the town can never be long without one.—

Brother, I am tempted here to make a short digression, after your manner, upon cullies:—I shall not attempt to give the etymology of the word, that I leave to lexicographers; but to me it appears highly probable, that it is derived from the verb, to cull; to pick or chuse. How then differ the cully and his miss? why just as the person chusing and the person chosen. But here occurs a query, Whether the cully may be properly said to chuse,

or to be chosen; for between being chosen and taken in, there is but little difference. After I had some time carried on the old trade, to the no small emolument of my aunt, who was fully indemnified for the expence she had been at, in order to get me cured, I was taken into keeping by a gentleman of a considerable fortune, who soon after carried me over with him to France. Upon my arrival at Paris, which is said to be the paradise of women, the purgatory of men, and the hell of horses, my mind was elated with joy; and being endowed with great natural penetration, from the various objects I beheld I formed conjectures of a thousand agreeable circumstances, which I afterwards found realized. My keeper took an hotel in the Fauxbourg St. Germain, where we lived in extreme splendour, and saw a great deal of good company. You must know,

know, brother, that amongst other privileges peculiar to women of France, a kept mistress is there entitled to see the best company of the other sex. Well, to be sure, brother, Paris is a charming place; the women there are indulged in such complete liberty, whereas in England a woman that is in keeping might almost as well be married. Mr. Gayless, my new keeper, had before resided in France, and had so far adopted the manners of that polite country, that he was not very solicitous whether I was true to him or not. I soon visited all the public places, the French and Italian comedies, the opera, the comic opera, the balls, &c. sometimes I went with Mr. Gayless, and sometimes with a female acquaintance, for I was acquainted with several, who were all ladies of my own profession. In the commerce I had with these, I could  
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not help taking notice of the difference of behaviour between a woman of pleasure in France and England; and the result of my observation was, that a woman of pleasure in France behaves just like any other woman, whereas in England, she is distinguished by a freedom and ease of behaviour peculiar to her profession. I found it somewhat difficult to account for this, until I received information that all the women in Paris may be properly looked upon as women of pleasure, and that all the difference is, that some of them are paid, and others not. The most agreeable acquaintance I ever made amongst my own sex was an actress belonging to the opera, who was equally famous for her gallantries, and her wit: that she was with reason famous for the first will, appear in the course of these memoirs; and that she was no less justly renowned for  
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Mifs SUKEY SHANDY. 123

the latter, the following story will convince you. One night a nobleman offered a certain dancer, remarkable for the sprightliness and good humour of her behaviour, twenty guineas for the favour; but finding upon examination of the premises, that the bargain he had made was attended with manifest danger, he determined to retract, and insisted upon having his money again. Hereupon the affair was referred to mademoiselle la Mort, the actress above-mentioned, who gave judgment in the following words: *Le Toile levé, on ne rend plus d'argent*; when the curtain is drawn no money is to be returned. I have sometimes made one of a party with this actress, when the rest of the company generally consisted of young men of quality, and of actresses from the several different theatres. I shall describe one of these parties of pleasure, that you

may be enabled to form a judgment in what manner the French ladies pass their lives. I shall begin by describing the men who were present upon this occasion, as I was always of opinion, that the masculine is more worthy than the feminine. The most considerable personage in this company was the chevalier D—, a young gentleman of a fine person, tall and slender, his features were delicate, and his eyes, which were not quite black, contained a great deal of tenderness and sensibility. Next him in rank was the marquis de —, whose age did not seem to exceed seventeen: he was low in stature, but elegantly shaped; his hair was sloe-black; his eyes were of a colour more pleasing than his complexion. There was a sweetness and sprightliness in his countenance, not to be expressed, and an inexpressible somewhat in his face, which  
seemed



seemed to be an alarm to love : his complexion inclined to the swarthy, but few fair faces were ever half so pleasing as his. Monf. D—— was the next that attracted my notice : he was tall, being full six English feet ; his shape was faultless, and his person neither thin nor lusty ; his complexion was fair and extremely clear, and he had the finest light hair I had ever beheld. Next to him was a young officer, who surpassed all the rest in beauty ; his eyes had in them something peculiar to the climate of France, which cannot easily be described, so as to give an adequate idea of it to those who never were in that country. To conclude, my description of him, both his face and person were such, that the finest woman in France would have found her account in changing with him. I must, in their turn, describe the ladies who composed the remainder

mainder of this assembly. Mademoiselle la Mort was tall, and finely shaped: she had a sprightliness and assurance in her face, which seemed vastly agreeable, as they were tempered with a sweetness and complacency inexpressible: her fine long black hair she wore tied behind; but I shall not attempt to convey an idea of all their various graces. Next her in personal charms was an actress of the Italian comedy, whose locks were yellow; a great beauty with the ancient inhabitants of Italy. The yielding marble of her snowy bosom seemed to sue the hand — but I shall stop here; for to deal plainly with you, brother, I don't take half the pleasure in describing handsome women that I do in describing handsome men. We passed the evening in amorous delights; and what contributed to enhance our pleasure, was we, in some measure, shared

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each other's joys, by imitating the ancient orgies, and religious rites of Venus, whose votaries sacrificed to her in each other's presence. Our amorous sacrifice being over we sat down to supper, where all that luxury could desire was prepared, for the gratification of our appetites, with the most exquisite wines the country afforded. After the wines coffee was served up, and then liquors of various kinds. Thus having protracted the time with drinking, singing, and such conversation as is usual upon such occasions, we separated about four o'clock in the morning. Such occasional frolics my keeper was never solicitous about, as he did not confine himself to me alone, but frequently passed an evening with some French woman of his acquaintance. It was, indeed, noble and generous in him, to indulge me in a liberty which he took himself; and it were to be wished that the whole sex would follow

low his example. You may depend upon it I made a good use of the liberty in which he indulged me ; so, for a frolic, I sometimes disguised myself in boy's cloaths, and in that manner went into public places. Thus dressed I had the air of a complete petit maître, and with the greatest ease imaginable, assumed their tone and manners : for you must know, brother, a French petit-maître is a sort of a medium between man and woman, tho' of the two he seems to approach nearer the latter. Happening to go to the opera one evening I met with a young musqueteer ; this musqueteer wore a gold-laced hat, with a white feather in it, and was dressed in a suit of white and gold, yet his figure seemed to set off his dress ; I shall not describe it, as I have already perhaps tired your patience with descriptions. He seemed struck with my person, and both before the curtain was  
3 drawn,

drawn, and between the acts, addressed himself to me with a grace and politeness altogether engaging. The piece being ended he invited me to his lodgings, where we had not been long before he, by some accident or other, came to the knowledge of my sex : however, he was far from availing himself of this discovery according to my expectations ; I soon found that he was one of the daffodils, or rather fribbles, who have neither power or spirit to enjoy what constitutes the chief pleasure of the more manly part of the sex. Of this insignificant race there is a considerable number at Paris, who profess the highest contempt for women, and are enamoured of their dear selves alone : yet, in despising women they may not improperly be said to despise themselves, as they want nothing but the petticoat and stays to be complete females. But I shall not dwell any longer upon so insignifi-

cant a subject : an effeminate man is, in my opinion, the most insignificant of all animals. One would be tempted to think, that such creatures continue homunculi, from the time they come into the world till they go out of it. I should be glad of your opinion upon this, brother ; you are a scholar, and probably may be able to explain the phænomenon, which seems to me to prove, that women are in general more perfect than men, as they are seldom known to be indifferent to the other sex. I am, your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



## LETTER XVIII.

DEAR BROTHER,

**Y**OU have justly observed, that every living soul has a circle of importance surrounding him ; and you will find  
in



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in the course of these memoirs, that the circle of my importance extended to a considerable circumference: happily, however, it never extended as far as the plantations, which many ladies of pleasure have touched at in the course of their peregrinations. If it did not extend so far, it took in countries which have made a much greater figure in the world; I mean France and Italy, which have been models to all the rest of Europe, in whatever relates to elegance and pleasure. My going to Italy was occasioned by a melancholy accident, which was no other than the death of my keeper, who was killed in duel by a French officer, whom he had provoked in a dispute, which they maintained upon the subject of government. Upon his death an Italian count, who had sometimes seen me at his hotel, took me into keeping, and we set out together for

Italy. Thus, brother, you see that your sister signalized herself in various climes, and that her conquests were not confined to the inhabitants of a single country. My new keeper was of a character entirely the reverse of that of Mr. Gayless: his constant jealousy was altogether insupportable to me; and the confinement I lived in with him, made me regret the liberty I enjoyed at my aunt's. Tho' he had nothing engaging in him, I was under a necessity of being true to him as I dreaded his furious temper, should he detect me in an affair with any body else. The climate of the country where we lived, debarred me the consolation of drinking; so that I was now more unhappy than ever. Lord, brother, how unfortunate was I to fall into the hands of an Italian:—here, perhaps, you may remind me, that I was very well pleased with an Italian dancing-master;

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master ; but, brother, there is no rule so general as to admit of no exceptions : tho' there are some amiable Italians, the men of that country are, for the most part, so jealous, that one would think they were made by nature to plague the women. I have another particular reason for hating the Italians : Must not that be a detestable people, that can cause many children to be mutilated every year, and barbarously deprive them of what nothing can make them adequate amends for. To return to signor Garotti, whom I should gladly have quitted for ever, the longer I lived with him the less satisfaction I found in his company, so that I, at last, formed the resolution to elope from him, which I effected in the following manner : One evening that I knew he was to have some gentlemen with him, who I knew would detain him pretty late upon some business,

134 The LIFE and OPINIONS of

at the discussion of which my presence was entirely unnecessary, I put on a suit of his cloaths, which easily fitted me, as he was a slender man and much about my height. Being thus prepared I waited behind the door of the room where they were, till I saw the street door open ; as they were many in number, and stood some time talking in the hall, I found means to blow out the candle unperceived, which they attributing to accident, I slipped by unnoticed. I run but very little risque in making this attempt, which I could easily have passed upon my keeper as a frolic, as I had often dressed myself in his cloaths before. When I was got into the street, it was so dark that I found it an easy matter to get off unperceived by those who came out with me, and going to an inn ordered a supper, and having passed the night there, early the next morning

morning quitted Florence, and that very day arrived at Leghorn, from whence I proposed to set sail for England. I forgot to tell you, brother, that I had possessed myself of jewels and money to the value of a thousand pounds; for in the course of my adventures, I could not but learn the great importance of such passports. At my arrival at Leghorn, I had the good fortune to meet immediately with with an English merchantman bound to Bristol, and having embarked on board it, had a very favourable passage; but as I was born to have a variety of adventures, I could not even have a respite from them during the passage: so that you will see, brother, that I have been like St. Paul, I have been in perils by water, and in perils by land, and that I soon became, to use the words of the same apostle, all things to all men. Perhaps you may think

me prophane for quoting scripture in a history, which is somewhat free ; but this I can defend by your own example, brother ; you yourself have inserted a sermon in the ludicrous narrative of your memoirs, and seem to look upon the pulpit as a fit place to be occupied by a jester. I have therefore imitated you herein, and hope that the influence of our united examples, will be sufficient to remove the narrow prejudices of those, who think scripture should not be trifled with. If the poet's remark be just, that we may laugh and speak truth, why should we be debarred from citing texts of scripture in a laughing mood. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

LETTER



L E T T E R X I X.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** Could not so artfully conceal my sex, but the captain of the vessel, who was a discerning man, soon suspected that I was not what I seemed. For tho' it is common upon the stage, for a woman in the habit of the other sex, to converse for hours together with a man, nay, with a man with whom she has long been familiarly acquainted with; such a thing could hardly happen in real life, and such incidents should be looked upon as poetical licences, which are permitted merely by the indulgence of an audience. The sea-captain finding his organs affected by mine, in a mannervery different from that which the organs of a man affected them, could not avoid forming some suspicion of  
of

of the cause. Had he been a philosopher he might have accounted for his surmise ; for the difference between philosophers and the ignorant consists in this : though they both have the same instincts, the former can explain their instincts, and shew from whence they are ; the latter have the same feelings, but cannot account for them. It is unnecessary, brother, to inform so profound a philosopher as yourself, that all love and affection is founded upon a sympathy subsisting between the organs of different persons, who no sooner meet but their bodies operate upon each other, just as two fiddles utter the same harmony, when tuned in unison. This philosophy is in great vogue in France, and it was there I learned it. To return to the captain, whom I had almost lost sight of, tho' he seldom lost sight of me ; for he was very particular and assiduous

duous in his civilities ; there appeared to be something of tenderness in his manner of conversing with me, and it sometimes looked so like courtship, that I don't doubt but some answers, I let drop, might have confirmed him in his suspicion. He soon contrived means to remove it entirely. One morning as I lay in bed a little longer than usual, he, with a boisterous sailor-like familiarity, came to me, and throwing off the cloaths, cried out, Zounds ! isn't it a shame for a young fellow to lie sluggishly in bed in the morning ? He came upon me so unexpectedly, that I could not prevent him from seeing what at once convinced him of the truth of his suspicions, and added fuel to the flame of his passion. His eyes sparkled with joy, and so strong was the expression with which they were fixed upon me, that I could hardly support it. To use the  
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emphatical words of Mr. Pope, they flash-  
ed intolerable day. Having thus pro-  
cured an opportunity, he pressed me so  
vigorously, that I almost began to be  
afraid of being ravished, and would have  
cried out ; but I reflected that I could pro-  
cure no assistance by so doing, as I was  
the only passenger on board, and the sail-  
ors were all devoted to their captain. I  
had another reason besides for not making  
any considerable resistance ; and that was,  
that the captain was a sprightly well-  
limbed young fellow, with a ruddy com-  
plexion, pleasing features, and short black  
hair tied behind, which became him  
hugely ; so I did not think much of let-  
ting him partake of what had been en-  
joyed by so many ; and I afterwards found  
he acquitted himself so well upon certain  
occasions, that I was not sorry for having  
met with such a lover. This was not the  
first

first sailer I had an affair with, and you will find hereafter that he was the last. In my commerce with sea-faring men in general, I found that, however defective they may be in the delicacy and refinement of courtship, they are at least equal to any body of men whatever in the more solid and substantial demonstrations of love. Our passage lasted three weeks, during which time my sea-lover gave me repeated proofs of the ardour of his passion; and when we arrived at Bristol he proposed taking a lodging for me, and living with me as he had done at sea. To this I readily consented, as I did not care to live without that necessary thing, a man, and had no reason to think I could provide myself better elsewhere. Before I went ashore my sea-gallant brought me suitable women's apparel, and soon after I took possession of a genteel lodging,

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which

which he had taken for me. I resolved to conceal my wealth from my lover, and to keep it for an emergency, having found by experience that men are prone to change: so I took care to give my lover to understand, that I had not above twenty guineas in the world; for as I perceived he had a turn to prodigality, I was apprehensive that I might, in the end, be obliged to contribute towards supplying his extravagancies. My new lover spared no expence, and we lived for some time in a constant course of pleasure and merriment. As I had a good head for drinking, I was a match for the captain over punch, wine, or flip: he could never make me knock under that way, tho' I have often brought him down another way. However, I found soon after, that the precaution I had taken was just; for the captain having, in a short time, squandered



dered his ready cash, was obliged to make another voyage; and after having very affectionately taken his leave of me, and expressed his sorrow for our separation, he set sail, and left me mourning on the barren shore. I was not, however, much concerned for his loss, as I knew it was very easy to repair it; so I soon after set out for London, an excellent place to repair the loss of a gallant. I am,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.



LETTER XX.

DEAR BROTHER,

**I** Set out with great alacrity, anticipating in imagination the happiness I should enjoy upon revisiting dear London; when,  
oh!

oh! how short are human schemes, I found myself attacked by two fellows, one dressed in a blue furtout, the other in a brown coat with metal buttons: they both had black crapes about their necks, and pistols in their hands; one of them swore he would blow my brains out directly if I did not stand, and the other seized my horse by the bridle. Sure, brother, I must have been born under an unhappy planet, that fellows should thus have it in their power to make me stand or fall at their pleasure: however, I can blame no one but myself for my misfortune; it was entirely owing to my indiscretion in resuming my disguise of boy's cloaths, which I did merely with a view of being unmolested till I approached London. Thus was I rifled of all my money; but as I had carefully concealed my jewels, by sewing them up between the lining  
of

of my coat, I still was worth about three hundred pounds. The highwaymen were so overjoyed at so rich a booty as seven hundred pounds, which they found upon examining my cloak-bag, that they immediately rode off without taking the trouble of stripping me, or searching me any farther. I thought myself happy in having come off so well; and being arrived at the metropolis, went directly to the house of a female acquaintance, in whom I could confide; where, after I had laid aside my disguise, I acquainted her with my adventures, and asked her advice concerning the regulations of my future conduct. The advice she gave me I thought very good, and immediately resolved to follow it. It was to assume the appearance and airs of a woman of condition, and endeavour to draw in some raw young fellow in the way of marriage, or

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at least to procure an advantageous settlement from some rich cully. In pursuance of this advice I frequented all public places, but soon found that I was too well known to hope for success in the former way; I therefore confined my hopes to the latter, and was soon taken into keeping by Mordecai, a rich Jew, to whom I had no objection but his advanced age and his religion; but these two considerations were greatly overbalanced by his wealth. Upon the whole, tho' those of his tribe lie under general obloquy and reproach, I found him to be a very worthy good-natured man, and I was pleased with my situation, chiefly because my keeper was so much engaged by business, that he had not an opportunity to take notice of the frequent infidelities which I was guilty of towards him. Whilst I lived with this descendant of Abraham, I happened to

have an occasional interview with my old acquaintance Mr. Frankly, who, tho' he seemed not to have the same sentiments for me, which he had upon our first acquaintance, still retained some degree of affection for me, which I looked upon as an eminent proof of his goodness of heart. Let moralists say what they will, brother, a rake may have more goodness of heart than a thousand rigid and austere partizans of religion and virtue. Mordecai being obliged to go to Holland about his affairs, and having given me to understand, that he did not expect to return in less than a month, I was overjoyed at the intelligence; but so much was I mistress of the art of dissembling, an art full as necessary to a kept mistress as to a courtier, that I expressed the highest concern at parting, and went so far as to shed tears. You may depend upon it I took care to

avail myself of his absence ; for whilst he was in town I always lay under some restraint, and had some measures to keep with him. Being now mistress of myself I admitted the visits of a crowd of young fellows, and led a life of continual pleasure till his return, which I looked upon as one of the saddest accidents that could happen to me ; tho' I was as successful in counterfeiting joy upon seeing him again, as in counterfeiting grief at being separated from him. It was not then in my power to see as much company as before : however I still continued to receive visits, from time to time, by the management of an experienced old woman, who took particular care to advertise me if there was any danger of surprize. One evening that I was likely to be disengaged, she informed me that a well-dressed gentleman, who lodged in the same street,

had



had intimated to her a desire of having a private interview with me ; and I not appearing averſe to it, ſhe ſoon after introduced to me a luſty well ſhaped man, dreſſed in a ſuit of blue and gold. I did not immediately recollect him ; but how great was my aſtoniſhment, when having conſidered him attentively, I perceived that he was one of the highwaymen, that robbed me. Perceiving, however, that the change of my dreſs kept me entirely from his knowledge, I was ſo far miſtreſs of myſelf as to conceal my ſurprize. But for the concluſion of this odd adventure, I muſt refer you to my next letter ; and, in the mean time, ſubſcribe myſelf,

Your affectionate ſiſter,

S. SHANDY.

L E T T E R XXI.

DEAR BROTHER,

**N**OT to keep you any longer in suspense concerning the odd adventure which I touched upon in my last; after having a short time dissembled with my new visiter, I found some pretext to quit the room, and shortly after sent him the following note, waiting in the house of the old woman before-mentioned for an answer:

“ SIR,

I am the person whom you, with the assistance of another, robbed some time since upon the road from Bristol to London of seven hundred pounds, which if you don't immediately restore, before you leave my lodgings, I will get you arrested  
directly,

directly, and prosecute you for the robbery at next sessions. A constable waits at the door for that purpose."

I immediately received an answer to this by the bearer of the former: the purport of it was as follows:

"MADAM,

If you do not immediately let me quit your house unmolested, I'll immediately send for Mr. Mordecai, and shew him the note you sent me, in which you consented to my visit."

This unlucky circumstance I had forgot; so, after mature deliberation, I thought it best to comply with what he required of me, and suffering him to quit the house, sent away the constable, and dropped all thoughts of prosecuting him.

Thus I found, that what rigid people call a vicious course of life, is attended with one inconvenience, namely, that it sometimes lays us under a necessity of bearing with the vices of others : but this is greatly counterbalanced by the pleasures that attend it ; and if we take the thing rightly, those virtuous men who inflict punishments on the vicious, are little better than they. The hangman has seldom a better heart than the criminal ; and he that prosecutes, may justly be looked upon as the person who employs the hangman :—but to leave off moralizing, and return to my adventures.

I lived with Mordecai till his death, which happened about two years after ; and unhappily for me he died suddenly of an apoplexy, so that he had not time to make any provision for me, when I again  
found

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found myself reduced to look out for a new keeper. The life of a kept mistress is in a constant ebb and flow, and subject to so many inquietudes, that were it not for the infallible remedy against care, which we find in drinking wine and punch, our condition would hardly be preferable to that of those dull creatures called virtuous wives. My tenement, however, did not long remain unoccupied : had I set up a bill over my door I should not have been sooner enquired after. I was bid for by three different purchasers, and at last disposed of myself to the best bidder, as I thought, for I judged of them by their outward appearance, and he was the best dressed of the three. My new keeper took a genteel lodging in Warwick-street, and there we lived in a very elegant manner. During the time I lived with Hazard, nothing remarkable happened

pened to me, except the meeting with an old acquaintance, whom I neither expected or desired ever to see again. One evening as I passed through the Haymarket, in order to visit an acquaintance who lived there, I saw a person come out of the prince of Orange's coffee-house, whom I thought I had seen somewhere. He fixed his eyes upon me with great earnestness, and our surprize was mutual, when I discovered in him il signor Garotti, and he in me his old mistress. He immediately accosted me in the French language, and upbraiding me with great bitterness, threatened to prosecute me with all the severity of the law ; however, I soon found means to convince the incensed count, that his malice was altogether impotent, and spoke in so undaunted a tone, that his passion entirely subsided, and feigning a desire of reconciliation, he de-  
fired



fired the favour of my company to a tavern. This I absolutely refused, not caring to trust myself with a vindictive Italian, whom I had so highly provoked. To return to Mr. Hazard, who had very little of the Italian in his temper, and seemed not at all sollicitous what other intrigues I carried on : we lived together for some months in very good intelligence ; and I did not in the least doubt that my lover was a man of fortune, as we lived with a splendour that could not be supported without a considerable expence : however, I soon found that I reckoned without my host ; for Mr. Hazard disappeared, all on a sudden, and the woman of the house got me arrested for board and lodging. The sum due to her was very considerable, and with all my tears and intreaties I found it impossible to move her relentless heart ; so I was conveyed to the Fleet, a place as  
often

often visited by ladies of pleasure as by the muses. From the various changes of fortune I had undergone, I had greatly improved the philosophic temper I was born with; and, therefore, I did not give way to dejection and despondence, but comforted myself with the reflection that I was not sent to Newgate. I went so far as even to flatter myself with the expectation of pleasures unenjoyed before, as I had been informed by a lady of my acquaintance, that the time she had passed in the Fleet was the happiest part of her life. This is not very hard to be accounted for, as we are most apt to find pleasure where we least expect it; and the agreeable disappointment at finding a place less insupportable than we thought it would prove, has a natural tendency to make us think it more agreeable than it really is. I am, your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY.

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L E T T E R XXII.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE observation with which I concluded my last, accounts for my being disappointed of the pleasure I expected;—I expected pleasure, and that doubtless was the reason I found none. I thought I had never been in worse company before, so I mixed but little with the jail society, but passed my hours mostly in reading books of amusement. This life appeared very tedious and insipid to me; but when I had languished a considerable time, good fortune sent me a companion capable of alleviating the uneasiness of my situation. A gentleman was brought to the prison, who, tho' too far advanced in years to be amiable, had a very advantageous person, and there was something

something extremely engaging and agreeable in his conversation. I had, for some years past, ceased to consider men in the light of lovers; the tenderness and warmth of my youthful heart had subsided, and I now looked upon a man only in the light of a necessary companion, that a woman cannot well be without in any stage of life. I was informed by this gentleman that he was possessed of two hundred pounds a year, and had been confined for a debt of five hundred pounds, which he could not immediately raise; but expected soon to procure his enlargement by the assistance of his friends. It was a great happiness for me to have met with this new acquaintance; but my happiness received a considerable addition, when a footman one morning brought him a letter, by which he received intelligence, that a friend of his had advanced  
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the sum in question, and that he should be set at liberty that very day. Mr. Thompson was overjoyed at receiving this intelligence, and I had no less reason to be so, as he had proposed to take me home to live with him as soon as he should be released. He then called in the footman in order to give him some directions; and I leave you to guess at my satisfaction, when I perceived him to be my long-lost Christopher. We both, however, had art enough to conceal our emotions from Mr. Thompson. The same day Mr. Thompson was set at liberty, and having satisfied the woman who had caused me to be arrested, I was also delivered from my confinement, and lived in great tranquillity with my keeper: I have always looked upon this as the happiest part of my life; for tho' my enjoyments were not so lively and exquisite as they had

had been in my youthful days, I was now free from those inquietudes which counterbalance the highest gratifications of sense. It was no small addition to my happiness, that I lived in the same house with Christopher, as our mutual passion had subsided into a friendship, cemented by time, and equally strong on both sides. But dearest friends, they say, must part. In about six years Mr. Thompson died, having settled an annuity of fifty pounds a year upon me: upon this I proposed to Christopher to quit the country, and follow a little business in London, which the bounty of my benefactor had enabled us to do. Christopher, with many expressions of acknowledgement, accepted the offer; and we have ever since lived as man and wife, at the C—nd—m in Bow-street, Covent Garden. Under the sign is wrote in gold letters, Christopher Snap, officer  
for



for the four counties ; for Christopher had procured that commission by the interest of a gentleman, whom he had served very faithfully in a post equally honourable. Thus, brother, I at last found a port : here ended all my peregrinations and adventures, and Christopher and I lived in the most perfect harmony together. We should never have agreed so well had we been really married ; for there is a secret curse in the name of wife and husband, which generally proves destructive of all domestic happiness. As I was now declining into the vale of years, I took the same delight in ministering to the pleasures of others, that I formerly did in sharing them : and in order to enjoy this satisfaction the more perfectly, I had holes made in the partitions of every chamber in the house, thro' which I could, without being seen, see what passed ; and I have

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frequently beheld scenes which gave me the highest satisfaction. This, brother, you must acknowledge to be an eminent proof of my goodness of heart; for what can be an higher instance of benevolence, than thus to make the pleasures of other people one's own, by sympathising with their enjoyments. My care to oblige my customers has been so successful, that our house is the most frequented in all the precincts of Covent-Garden. However, I propose leaving off business as soon as I shall have amassed the sum of twenty thousand pounds: it is not that I fear ever to fall under the lash of justice, for there is no danger of my having any falling out with it, as

Justice is lame as well as blind among us, and I know how to compromise matters with the law. But to deal plainly with you,

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brother,

brother, as I grow old I begin to feel some compunctions of conscience; and these are greatly encreased by the pathetic sermons of the Rev. Mr. G—e Wh—d, of whom I am as constant a hearer as attendance on the necessary duties of my business will permit: so, after having been useful in my generation, I hope to make my peace with heaven, and die a penitent. But it is not quite so bad with me yet; it is time enough to talk of dying and penitence. Thus, brother, I have given you a faithful narrative of my adventures; and with the utmost sincerity subscribe myself,

Your affectionate sister,

S. SHANDY, alias SNAP.

*F I N I S.*